

Today, Congressman Charles A. Gonzalez (TX-20), Ranking Member of the House's Elections Subcommittee, offered the following statement supporting efforts to protect the equal voting rights of all citizens in Ohio and [condemning the inaccurate and divisive claims](#) made about the suit:

"Two of the most important rights granted to American citizens by the Constitution are [the right to vote](#) and the right to [equal protection of the laws](#). The former means that our government remains [of the people, by the people, and for the people](#). The latter means that all citizens are treated the same by our government in the exercise of their rights.

"It is entirely appropriate for our courts to prevent misguided or miswritten laws from creating unequal procedures that would deny some Americans equal protection. It is utterly wrong of the Romney Campaign [to mischaracterize such efforts](#) as threatening the rights of other Americans. To hide behind false claims about our servicemembers is shameful. To do so while [threatening the rights of hundreds of thousands of Ohioans](#), [including many veterans](#), is worse.

"The great fight of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century was for *equal* rights. Our Constitution does not condone the creation of second-class citizens or granting special rights to any favored group. Every eligible voter in Ohio should and must have the same opportunity to vote for the candidates of their choice."

Earlier this summer, Congressman Gonzalez, a [long-time proponent of protections for military voters](#), worked with [several of his colleagues, voter protection groups, and the Federal Voting Assistance Program](#) to help protect the rights of voters under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA).

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